

BLACK FLAG

organ of the

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS



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JAN CARL RASPE



ANDREAS BAADER

GERMANY, FOCUS OF THE CONFLICT

Official Germany's neurotic obsession with the State which goes deep into the roots of bourgeois consciousness, poisons the whole of European politics. In no other country would anyone have thought of holding a protest march against the kidnappers of a prominent industrialist headed by Government officials, and followed by hundreds of minor functionaries in the State and business all dressed in their conventional office clothes, solemnly carrying banners denouncing protest movements. At least when they tried that sort of thing in Spain they brought in coachloads of manual staff from the factories on overtime, or ordered soldiers out in civilian clothing, to give it some pretence of being a popular demonstration.

Privately the world's journalists laugh their heads off at bourgeois Germany. But in their reports to the press they report all the hand-outs of the German police and all the official excuses for repression weary clichés against the resistance. The same phrases can be seen in every newspaper, whether the reports emanate from news agencies or correspondents; the same tendentious lies and half-truths, the same apparent lack of logic.

The Resistance is treated as a small Anarchist gang . . . yet 15,000 people or so attend demonstrations on its behalf! It has no support — yet can find ready place to hide! It is a gang directed by a man in prison, under close upsurvision, without access even to his own lawyers, and by a dead woman, from whom it apparently takes its orders by telepathy and spiritualism respectively!

Perhaps the most typical of the deadpan, accepted Press reaction comes in the reporting of the story of repeated "terrorist attacks" upon nuclear testing stations! Poor inoffensive nuclear testing stations!

The humbug in denouncing the "gangster" and "bandits" described as "Anarchists" when the description comes direct from police circles or "the Baader-Meinhof gang" takes the form of denouncing them as mindless and violent without any popular support, and drop outs from the middle class. The media describes the situation as "approaching civil war." But not one voice is lifted to put the other side's point of view . . . apart from thousands of people in Germany itself! Just consider what they are rebelling against.

Capitalism in Germany called in fascism to help preserve it against the workers. It was given artificial resuscitation by the Allies. Now a cross section of the young takes up the offensive against it.

The resistance is a mixed bag, because it contains many elements. Some come from a revolutionary type Marxism, some are influenced by Mao and so nationalism, some are Anarchist or have come through Marxism to Anarchism.

And Anarchism, as the German police have made clear time and again, is what the German State dreads most. The German bourgeois cannot bear to live without defined authority, and whereas the English middle-class look to the "idyllic past" of Baldwin and Churchill they look back nostalgically to the same period, under Hitler. As East Germany shows, they can live under Marxism. Its authoritarianism appeals to them even if they object to its nowadays subservience to Russia or its lack of "opportunity." But Anarchism is a clarion call to the dreaded unknown of freedom. It is possible as much as the bombs of the various Resistance fractions, the German bourgeois fears revolutionary and libertarian ideas.

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(The last issue was Vol. IV No. 15. This commences a new volume. Don't think your subs were overlooked; there was a delay between the last issue and this.)

Our apologies for the delay with this issue of the Flag but we have been severely held back owing to continuing troubles with our IBM type composer and other financial problems. This delay has extended itself to the third issue of the Cienfuegos Press Review which should have been out by now but will not in fact appear until October. However, we do think that all C.P. subscribers and supporters will think it worth waiting for when they receive it. This issue will run to approx. 120pp and contains, among others, the following articles: The Aims and Principles of Anarchism; Objections to Anarchism; Objectivity and Liberal Scholarship, Noam Chomsky with an introduction by Frank Mintz; The Life Trial and Death of Francisco Ferrer Guardia with a biographical note by Dave Poole, plus Ferrer's Last Letters from prison and the memorial speech by Kropotkin following Ferrer's execution; Erich Muehsam — a biographical essay complete with bibliography; Anarchism in Greek Philosophy; Anarchism and Freemasonry; Sabotage by Walker C. Smith; Berufsverbote in West Germany; A History of the Anarchist Movement in Bulgaria; Arms and the Women; Anarcho-Feminism — Two Statements; Gnosticism — Ancient Heresy or Kick up the Cassock; Stepniak — Portrait of a Nihilist; Picture Books for Little Anarchists; Science — the Image and the Reality; Scientists in Collision;

Anarcho-Quiz

1. Was Karl Marx related to Queen Victoria?
2. What bar-room anecdotes told by Attorney-General F.E. Smith escalated to become a major propaganda campaign in the First World War?
3. What had Lloyd-George's proposed Liberal Industrial Enquiry in common with the Swansea Harbour Improvement Trust?
4. What was the Cat-And-Mouse Act?
5. What American city was founded by atheists and freethinkers as a humanist city, in the same way as Philadelphia was founded as a Quaker city, Salt Lake City as a Mormon one and so on?
6. The Ku Klux Klan could be described as a native American brand of fascism but equally truthfully, how did H.L. Mencken describe it?

answers on page 15

The Miasnikov Memorandum; Ricardo Flores Magon — a biographical essay — plus lots more articles, reviews and commentaries.

As you can see this issue contains as much as some major books on anarchism and is extremely expensive to produce. For this reason we have had to increase the cover price to £1.75 (still a bargain). However, the Review is free to all subscribers (£6.00) and will be sent off immediately we receive them from the printer, which should be sometime in mid-October. The next title "Land and Liberty! — Anarchist Influences in the Mexican Revolution — Ricardo Flores Magon" has been held up at the printers but it should be in the post shortly after the Review. Would all Cienfuegos Press Subscribers for 1977 please note that they should have received already the following titles as part of their subscription: **The Russian Tragedy; The Black Flag Anarcho-Quiz Book; Marxism and a Free Society** (to be reprinted shortly); **C.P. Review No.2**. In addition they will also receive the **C.P. Review No. 3; Land and Liberty!** and **The Face of Spanish Anarchism** before the end of the year. Would all those subscribers who have not received the first five publications please let us know a.s.a.p. and we shall get them off to you post haste.

The centre spread of the Review is a wall newspaper carrying the headline **Easter Cancelled! Christ's Body Found** with news stories from around the world following the collapse of Christianity/Western and State Capitalism as a direct result of the discovery of J.C.'s body. Copies are available for flyposting in your area for 50p per 25 copies (inc. p&p).

An Anarcho-Syndicalist Conference is to take place in Manchester on 22/23 Oct., to explore way in which Anarcho-Syndicalists in Britain can work together more effectively and to discuss things of mutual interest. Participants so far include activists from Black Cross, SWF and the Industrial Network.

There will be a creche if needed — let the organisers know if you require this.

In a tough new line

While reaffirming the democratic right of revolution, the Home Secretary has decided that future revolutions must follow orderly lines laid down by the police, in a tough new line designed to deal with violent revolutions. The main items are:

1. Revolutions must take place at a weekend, after fourteen days notice to the Commissioner of Police.
2. No of fensive or controversial statements may be made by the revolutionary leadership, for two weeks prior to the said revolution.
3. All vanguard parties will be required to be licensed by the Ministry for the Environment.

State of play as at 10th July 1977

Printing costs paid since last account	155.00
Postage	86.90
Stationery	5.00
	246.90

Sales & subs.	105.35
Donations as under *	107.46
Royalties	9.21
	222.02

Loss	24.88
Loss carried forward	1451.37
Loss to date	£1476.25

Donations:

London: JT £3; JG £3; RM £2; LS £2; HMP MS £3; Glasgow: RA £3, A.McG £1; Huddersfield: IM £1; Aberystwyth: MS £1; Gwent: PS £9.25; Leicester: PM £5; Cambs: ME £2; Bristol: DD £2; Manchester: SWF £1; Milwaukee: GP £28.25; Calif. Italian comrades ex picnic £28.62, B.C. Canada: MH £3; Guam: SS £2.65. Total £107.46p.

Comment: With money yet to come in for sales, this means that we are keeping our end up — two issues with scarcely a change in the overall financial position, which for us is almost like winning the pools! If we got paid for every copy we sent out, and all subs renewed on time, we would actually solve our Black Flag problems (and be able to help solve our book and pamphlet production problems).

Direct Action: Paper of the Syndicalist Workers Federation. Write c/o Grass Roots, 109 Oxford Road, Manchester 1.

use of a creche so that they have an idea of how many kids to cater for. There is also a possibility of transport being organised from London. For further details contact: — Syndicalist Workers Federation, 109 Oxford Road, Manchester M1. Items for possible agenda should be sent as soon as possible.

4. All violence taking place over the weekend revolution will be firmly suppressed and damage resulting therefrom be chargeable against those deemed responsible by a Court of Inquiry, subject to appeal to a Higher Tribunal.
 5. No revolutionary demands may be made which have not been first submitted to Parliament.
 6. No revolution prejudicial to the rights of Her Majesty, or contrary to parliamentary sanction will be licensed.
- * This means that the extremists can have their revolution. But they will have to keep to the rule of law.

continued page 93.

THE RUNNING SHRIEK

The running shriek in which the Grunwick dispute is discussed still manages to occupy the dailies and television, and is the stuff of endless debate and 'confrontation'. After a year, the hack journalists are standing by for the race to get their version of the long dispute into book form first – but wait despairingly for the finish. Is it going to be a 'major blow at trade unionism' or 'a disaster for freedom?' Hold on: the lad's not dead yet.

No major British employer would have got himself involved to this extent: Mr. Ward, of Grunwick's, is an immigrant Asian trying to become rich quick and trying methods long since discarded by our native capitalists. There is a suspicion he is being used by politicians anxious to prove a point against trade unionism. But if so, it is by people whom he thinks are the Establishment, and who are only its internal critics.

He thought he could act as traditional master against Asian women immigrant workers. Perhaps he got a surprise when they staged a strike against him. He has fought back long, persistently and with stubborn desperation – sacking them and seeing them turn to English trade unionism, unused to being thwarted, accustomed to being bought. Even in his year-old battle he has raised wages sharply to those workers staying on, who proclaim in return that never, never will they become trade unionists.

The running shriek on the one hand has been that why should people be compelled to join unions if they don't want to; on the other hand the near hysterical cry that trade unionism is imperilled and if Ward of Grunwick's wins then we shall be back to Mr. Gradgrind and Hard Times with a vengeance. The hydra-headed package-deal Left makes a field day of demonstrations at Grunwick's; even those who do not belong to a trade union and have never become so militant at work as to be noticed, rush down to Hendon for the latest punch-up with the police. Far be it from us to say this isn't good clean honest fun; why not have a punch-up with the police? But if the Left were still identifiable with the working class maybe we could see a little of that action at the places where the picketing outsiders were actually working? Maybe even if there were more militancy actually on jobs it wouldn't be necessary for the

Asian women pickets to *want* to work at Mr. Ward's.

The union concerned with the Grunwick dispute is the least militant of all. If, however, we look at the so-called militant unions their ambitions are all tied up in the achievement of the closed shop. The closed shop means that the leadership has more power than ever and can keep the threat of expulsion over the heads of the militants, more powerfully than the threat of dismissal by the employers – for it would mean that they would never work again in their trade. This principle, regarded as the height of democracy, is fascism: an independent, worker-controlled union however would be regarded as undermining 'democracy'. The closed shop, and what it entails, means that the leadership can take part in wheeling and dealing, freed from militant pressure; yet those who are so militant that they will go down to Hendon and get their heads bashed in by the police think that 'the preservation' of trade unionism as it exists is what they must fight about or we shall be on the high road to fascism. Rest assured, friends, despite the running shriek, the labour leaders will be there before you, preparing for the labour front!

You will have a legally guaranteed closed shop *then* with a vengeance! – not to mention a social contract and all the other social-democratic State "successes."

The running shriek that is heard on the Right is that people are entitled *not* to join a trade union. But what have they to say of independence? There isn't as yet an alternative to reformist trade unionism, in permanent syndicalist form. But there are unofficial bodies. Do these champions of 'freedom' who oppose trade union domination support unofficial strike action and workers councils? To ask the question is absurd, they are its most rigorous opponents. They want 'freedom' from trade unions, but against workers' councils they want "the rule of law!" Bargains freely entered into – by the TU leadership – to be obeyed by all.

Meanwhile the trade union leadership basks in the unaccustomed feeling of martyrdom and the package deal Left in the accustomed feeling of being way out there in front – "and what did you do in Grunwick's daddy?", they feel future generations will be lisping.

What does all the militancy amount to?

At the moment when the working class as a whole is decisively rejecting the Labour Party set up, they want to preserve it; at a time when the corporate state disguised as a "social contract" is being in the greatest of contempt the unions alone perpetuate it. At a time when a major step forward is being demanded everywhere, the 'vanguard' is not ready... it is frightened to let the organised workers out of its grip, trying to find ways to keep workers' unofficial strike councils tied to the trade union movement and afraid that they will be self-perpetuating, self-sufficient and syndicalist.

The TV cameras are not focussed on the battle which is now shaking the workplaces. Unlike Grunwick's it won't be situation comedy or a late night horror show: it's going to be the big feature.

For it must never be forgotten that trade union movement as the Labour Party has chosen to interpret it, and the way it happens to have turned out here, is not the only method of working class organisation, and far from being the most desirable. It is the way trade unionism is under the influence of State socialism. Its faults are those of State socialism, its merits – whatever they may be – are those of State socialism. Its compromise with capitalism is the normal compromise that State socialist ideology would impose on it.

But there is *another* form of union organisation that is not State socialist. It is controlled from the bottom upwards, and dispenses with leadership; it is composed of workers' councils and does not seek therefore to incorporate them. It rejects political vanguards. It seeks control of the industries in which it operates, not the imposition of laws or political intervention. Perhaps paradoxically, though it rejects capitalism, it thrives on competition; it does not need to conscript members because they will be impressed by results; it does not need to expel militants because only they bring results; because it does not seek a deal with capitalism, capitalism will try to buy it off by granting what they would never have otherwise granted. That form of union organisation, the syndicalist, was the big feature. It has been eclipsed for fifty years by what we have now. Is it to be our fate forever? Or is – the running shriek notwithstanding – the writing on the wall?

Can we get back to Autonomy?

THE NEXT STEP

It is not just the revolutionary movement which has ground to a halt. All workers feel unable to make any social change and in the grip of economic forces or the State, which cannot be challenged.

It is understandable that this has gradually become the whole feeling throughout the totalitarian communist countries. There the repression of the State has grown so much, even when the actual physical terror has abated, that there appears to be no chance for any change in society.

The only 'revolutionary' movement with any chances of success in such circumstances are those which can rely upon a foreign military power; hence the struggles between different Communist Party factions, taking advantage of the rivalry between China and Russia — since the 'democracies' are far from wanting military intervention and defend the communist countries from revolutionary plots from abroad. They neither want real revolution there, nor do they even want "capitalist roads" which would create powerful competitors.

For this reason nationalist movements are today able to flourish. All Powers are interested in the national question for it is a way, without war, to intervene in the sovereignty of other powers. No Powers want revolution, even for their worst enemies. No revolutionary movement receives any foreign state support: if it did, it would cease to be revolutionary. It would be a takeover by the intervening State. All nationalist movements receive such support automatically, though (in view of their professions) illogically.

The only thing that can break the seemingly unbreakable monolithic State is individual action — and this is why this least violent form of armed struggle receives most abuse by word and deed from the oppressor. Those who are busy preparing the ultimate in terror, who have massacred with impunity and intend to escalate to genocide and even world destruction if they cannot get their way otherwise, are the most fervent in their denunciation of 'terrorism'.

The feelings of frustration and inability to make any change in society equally

applies to the 'democracies' where there is greater freedom of expression, but equal lack of being able to put change into practice.

Every one knows that the political parties do not represent a force for social change, or a means of control over the Government. Democracy, as now interpreted, has nothing to do with control by the people, it solely is interpreted as tolerance by the State which is preferable to intolerance, but does not mean the people have any control over their rulers.

The sole manner in which the economic system could be changed is by people at work, from which they are becoming increasingly alienated. But the growing virtual monopoly of State Socialist trade unionism means that even this too is being eroded.

How can an anarchist movement be built? It is significant that the wishy-washy substitute of 'pacifist anarchism' which finds class struggle 'terrifying' and offers instead liberal alternatives under or apart from the State, or even seeks benefits from the State in order to maintain its alternative society, has grown in recent years; and has captured some allegiance more in despair than anything else. True anarchism represents a challenge to the State. How can it be put into action?

It is not by weekend militancy, and not by dropping out of the system, in a surrender to the State — telling oneself that by living on it one is somehow undermining its existence (a parallel to the authoritarian socialist imagining that by building a dictatorship he is helping the State to fade away).

One of the most heartening examples of anarchist resurgence has been seen in Spain. It is true that there people feel some sense of participating in their own future with the dismantling of some of the worst features of Francoism; but also because years of resistance now provide a background to a fighting movement. Yet there is nothing being done in Spain that could not be done here with less difficulty — if only it were desired.

The basis of the Spanish Labour movement (the CNT) originally was the

Trades Hall — which served a similar purpose to that in England, and usually combined such features as were seen here in the old Mechanics' Institutes and Reading Rooms; and in France, the Labour Exchanges (a name later adopted in England by a vastly different institution!) There workers of all trades formed both club and union, without differentiation of craft or skill. (It is true that in those days there was some differentiation of sex which would not be the case today).

The unemployed were thus federated with the employed; there was no barrier against them. The skilled and the unskilled were federated. They went where jobs were to be had and the card of the one big union was sufficient. They were members of the OBU, not of the railwaymen's union or the building workers. Once on the job they belonged to different syndical branches of the union.

This type of 'local' was also the basis of the IWW in America; it has been the base of many an industrial union but also of syndicalist craft unions. If those who come to it do so not on the basis of how they spend their leisure — though that is an important angle too — but how they spend their working week, it can be a basic component of a revolutionary movement. It is this that we have in past issues designated as a workers club movement, on the basis of *the club*, which is eminently capable of being built and which to exist only needs enthusiasm and commitment, a movement can be established which would be the basis of militancy at work. From there — granted that the workers' club is what it says it is, and not merely a haven for those outside the struggle — it becomes a nucleus in the workplaces of people wanting to take over; workers councils, not outside the places of work but in them, needing no political alliances. It would give an immense feeling of strength to those feeling isolated in their own jobs, or to those without productive jobs. It would be a basis for mutual aid during industrial disputes and of solidarity against the State. Without this step forward no serious libertarian revolutionary movement can exist.

Bolivia

"Following a clandestine visit to Bolivia by a group of British miners", according to the press, but more probably to an open visit to Britain by Bolivian miners

representatives, the National Union of Mineworkers criticised the proposed £19m loan by the British Government (of our money) to the Bolivian mineowners who operate an almost feudal system.

We are glad to say they persuaded the Government to change its mind. The military have occupied Bolivian tin mines for eighteen months; modernisation of the mines would have enabled them to block all advances by the workers. The

tin miners of Bolivia go on fighting against incredible pressures, both poverty and military repression.

But do not think the tin mine owners have given in. They have friends in high places. Said the Bolivian Embassy spokesman (*Times* 9th Aug) "The mining equipment would now be bought on the open market, most probably from the Soviet Union." Tyranny knows no frontier.

RUSSIA Resistance Grows

Suddenly — after fifty years of silence on anarchist resistance in Russia and forty years of silence on the conspiracy of the bureaucrats in the Trotskyist trials (if it ever really existed), the Russian government is announcing that “terrorists” exist in the Soviet Union. Not “foreign spies”, “trotsky-fascists in the pay of Hitler”, or other allegations linking Trotskyites or Communist Party renegades with foreign powers; but accusations which firmly state that there is a resistance and label it “terrorist”.

One obvious reason why the Soviet Government may have been silent about “terrorism” and resistance for years could be, of course, that it did not exist. Much of the anarchist and working class resistance of the twenties was wiped out in blood and long years of prison. Who knows what happened to them in the State terrorism of Russia? Anarchists, social-revolutionaries like Maria Spiridonova, went into prison — their cases were kept alive for years by international solidarity but in the thirties the blank wall of officialdom interposed. No communications with prisoners were permitted. No news of resistance came out, or was ever revealed within the Russian empire itself.

In recent years there has been a minor revolt amongst the Soviet Establishment. Leading members of the most favoured class have “dissented.” (Not, though, be it noted, *resisted*.) Some of them — especially the Jews, with international connections prepared to publicise their

cases — have become well known. But they do not want to resist but to emigrate.

Others, like the Baptists, only want the right to worship but not the overthrow of the State nor emigration, but even so, have waited until the comparative success of international solidarity which the Jews have invoked until they put their own case.

But the majority of Russia long since slipped back into the cowardly sloth and passiveness typical of Tsarist despotism from which it stirred only a brief couple of years. Russia is thought of as “aggressive” because of the identification of people with the State; in fact, Russia as an entity is the most pacific country in the world, as distinct from the Russian State. Its people accept anything, including death, from their government, and the “bravery in war” is only a reflection of the cowardice in peace — the Government can urge them on to the utmost sacrifice, certain that nobody will dare decline the utmost expected. Police raids on an unresisting people have cowed the population until it would queue up for its liquidation. In those circumstances, as in Tsarist Russia, light years away freer than the State Communist regime, the only possible resistance is individual, to break down the *moral intimidation* before it is possible to break down the *physical intimidation*.

And this is happening. That is why the State, which thinks nothing of murdering hundreds or even thousands at

a time, even in peacetime, and it may have been millions in the twenties cries “terrorism!”

In addition to the frequent bomb and hijacking stories involving “terrorists” sometimes nationalists but more often not, there have been marked changes in the Soviet laws regarding arson. Crimes which — like in the West — are blamed on “bandits and drug addicts”. The maximum sentence for arson has been raised from eight to fifteen years and people convicted would lose their possessions and face stiffer sentences if “aggravating circumstances,” such as conspiracy — which means political offences — were proved.

This is especially happening in Georgia and the Ukraine. Some may be nationalist, but it may not be so. We see in the “free West” that aims of organisations able freely to circulate their statements can be grossly distorted and changed in the press. Though “freedom of the press” exists in the West, the majority of newspaper readers will think of years of anarchist resistance in Catalonia as “nationalist” or the struggle against the closing years of the Franco regime as “Basque nationalist” or of various nationalist bodies elsewhere as anarchist. What chance is there of Russian or outside readers knowing the truth about resistance in Russia? Only at one stage will they know. Then matters will really be advanced!

Exit Romans, Weeping

The National Front candidate at Ladywood, having scored a by-election sensation by beating the Liberals into fourth place, and notching up 888 (coincidentally the fascist inner symbol for Hitler — H the eighth letter of the alphabet and so the triple 8 club).

But a few days afterwards he resigned from the National Front. Mr. Anthony Reed-Herbert said he was ‘giving up politics after a vendetta of hate.’ He and his wife had received threatening telephone calls. He had been told he was the target for ‘a bid to rid the East Midlands of people like you.’ The safest thing was to resign.

Mr. Ian Bunce, too, parliamentary candidate for Dundee, resigned after

(explained his wife) people had actually ‘daubed Nazi slogans’ on their nice little home.

Many others too.

Had anyone daubed Nazi slogans on walls of Black people, saying ‘niggers go home’ they could not resign from the Black race in order to live in peace. Jews could not, at any rate in a manner acceptable to anti-semites, resign. But National Front and other racist and fascist supporters have that opportunity, and take advantage of it at the first moment.

Yet isn’t it a commentary on them that they *do*? Compare them with Anarchists who have, as readers of this paper will know only too well, gone to their deaths, or to long terms of imprison-

ment, or faced unemployment, victimisation and poverty!

The Reed-Herberts and the Bunces are the elite of fascism, the chosen few who were destined for leadership. They illustrate that fascism of the National Front type *as it now exists* is never and can never be a menace. What *can be a menace* is a fascist party which is needed by the Establishment (which at the moment is a liberal Establishment and the NF a gadfly); such a fascist party is always not only protected by the police but acts as its vanguard. It commits arson and murder with the police, and ultimately the army, to back it (as in even post-Franco Spain). Its opponents are arrested when they defend themselves.

ROON'n'ABOUT

Sometimes one thinks of packing it in... who would worry? Has one managed to achieve anything? Then comes a gesture that puts new fire in your belly. One such happened the other day. Noel and Marie Murray, now beginning a sentence for life, sent £5 for Black Flag.* In the conditions they are serving their sentences — far worse for her, in a grim prison cell, than for him in the military prison of The Curragh — they are not likely to be receiving this journal, or any letters. We have long since been banned by the Republican jailers. Nevertheless, Marie and Noel have thought of us and want to carry on the fight for other prisoners and for the international anarchist movement; rather than to spend the money on themselves for comforts.

*to be acknowledged in our next balance sheet.

OUT AT LAST

All the long-term libertarian prisoners in Spain are now released; none of the anti-Franco resistance fighters remain behind bars. This is not entirely the result of amnesty; most of them were due to be released long ago, but the constitution guaranteed law relating to conditional liberty was not being applied. Now that it is being applied, the Anarchist prisoners have specially benefitted. Those in prison in Spain now, some thirty at the latest count, are on more recent charges, or have not yet been tried, as a result of demonstrations or activity since Franco's death.

From Ireland too, we learn with pleasure of the release of our comrade Columba Longmore, having completed his sentence. This leaves, in the Curragh, Des Keane and Bobby Cullen, who have a year or two more to suffer, and Noel Murray, who is beginning his life sentence. Marie Murray begins her sentence in Cork Prison.

Notwithstanding the verdict which has removed the death penalty, however, we do not want to give up the case of Noel and Marie. The Defence Committee is going to fight on. It still needs funds for the legal battles which lie ahead. Now that the death threat has been removed, less public interest is aroused which is a pity. Noel and Marie must not be allowed to rot inside: admission that there was no evidence save torture came with the acquittal of Ronan Stenson. All steps must be taken to get these sentences reversed.

Marie Murray now has only two other women prisoners with her in Limerick Jail. She could become completely isolated soon and is in great danger (remember Ulrike).

No anarchist could fail to admire the fighting spirit of the hunt saboteurs and the militant anti-blood sports campaigners, including the animal liberationists. Is this an "uncritical approach to violence" or a recognition that direct action pays off in results? For years the savage practices of the upper classes and their hangers-on were accepted as a normal part of the English scene. Now there is, at least, an apologetic approach but with the defence of the system taking on an ugly edge.

Take the case of Mrs. Valery Waters, a 45 year old Birmingham mother of two, who took some foxhunters to court and landed up in jail herself. Driving along a country lane — which interfered with the hunt, but in doing which she was well entitled — her car was ambushed by four gentlemen huntsmen, had oil poured on it, turf thrust up the exhaust, and paint sprayed on it. She took them to court, appearing as prosecution witness. But the magistrates decided she had provoked the attack and bound her over. Refusing to be bound over, she was sent to jail, another victim of the "damaged-policeman's-boot-with-jaw" syndrome.

In the case of 33 year old Mrs. Susan Hough, she was charged with making a noise at a hare coursing event and running on the field. She too went to jail, for a week as against Mrs. Waters' month, in that redbrick horror of a jail which is replacing the mock-Gothic monstrosity, London's Holloway — which when its rebuilding was announced, was said to be going to be a "hospital rather than a prison." By the time these lines appear their "re-education" will be over; prison will have "reformed rather than punished" will it?

It is extraordinary that in 1977 one can successfully prosecute on the grounds of blasphemy. Admittedly, to get away with it, the definition of blasphemy has had to be changed. Upsetting Christians for references to the central figure in their faith may be "disturbing the peace," but so are a number of other things such as flaunting obscene political opinions; it's not what blasphemy was supposed to be about, which was offending the Lord. There was some point in burning the offenders in case the Lord objected to being offended; but a money fine and a suspended sentence doesn't seem to be enough to ward off lightning.

This comes as a result of a successful campaign by Mary Whitehouse for the greater glory of Mary Whitehouse. The press has built her up, and she can only maintain her name and fame by such stunts as this private prosecution of *Gay News* for blasphemy. Shrewd

campaigner as she is, knowing that to go for blasphemy against *Gay News* was shooting a sitting duck because of the likelihood of anti-homosexual bias of the jury, she couldn't have known in advance that she was going to get a Jewish judge who bent over backwards to ward off the threat to Christian morality. (Irish Republican prisoners in English jails, unlucky enough to get Irish Catholic warders rather than English, will recognise what happened!)

It could never have come off had she picked a formidable opponent; instead of James Kirkup's sad little poem, say something *really* blasphemous like Billy Connolly's brilliant, bawdy, irreverent "The Crucifixion". (For those who don't know it, Jesus really came from Gallowgate, not Galilee and was a Glasgow hooray who told tall stories about his father up yonder when he had some of that cheap red wine in him. . .)

But now the law has been affirmed, another campaigner, or another Attorney General, will take this rusty weapon of blasphemy out of its mediaeval scabbard and use it when it is convenient, just because of the precedent of a coincidence of Mary Whitehouse's pro-Whitehouse campaign, an Uncle Tom on the bench and a homosexual defendant . . . that's the democratic process. This time they can take on the big league — who?

Already jubilant Mary Whitehouse and others are saying that they do not see why the law should confine itself only to defending the Christian religion . . . it should include other religions too . . .

The rusty weapon may be a treacherous one to use. Mr. Justice King-Hamilton, had he been more inclined judicially towards the teachings of his own religion, would have regarded teaching that Jesus was *literally* the son of God and maybe God himself as much more blasphemous than saying his corpse got fucked and sucked by a Roman soldier.

† † † †

Do we not, however, detect a somewhat ingenuous — or opportunistic? — note about some of the left and libertarians who, in righteous and defiant protest against the prosecution, have reprinted Kirkup's verse, less for any worth in itself than in solidarity . . . when they declined any solidarity with anarchists, or others charged with a revolutionary activity. It is easier, of course, to reproduce a poem than to reproduce the actions of resistance movements, and nobody asks them to do that, but couldn't they at least refrain from sneering, deprecating and criticising? The criticisms in some cases take the form of saying that certain actions of resistance fighters, such as bank robberies, tend to 'alienate the masses.' It is by no means a worthwhile criterion, but if it were, which 'alienates the masses' more — bank robberies or the gay scene?

Georgui Costakis is a 65 year old Greek who has spent his life in Moscow, working for more than 30 years for the Canadian Embassy and therefore is an exceptionally privileged position. This isn't a story about persecution or harassment as generally comes out of Russia; Costakis has lived modestly but well, compared with his neighbours, for he has had the privilege of diplomatic wages. His hobby has been buying up the rebel Russian painters of the 20s and 30s – rebel, that is, only in their use of artistic expression (other rebels were condemned to Siberia).

He has amassed a unique collection of avant garde painters – the bulk of which he has donated to the Soviet State (which has accepted them, and locked them up out of sight). Some however they've let him take out of the country.

If the paintings receive world acclaim, the Soviet State may yet relent and say how they redound to the glory of the Fatherland and Marxist-Leninism. They are rightly suspicious, however, of according too hasty recognition to dissident art.

No sensible dictatorship likes that sort of thing around. It gives people ideas.



After fifty years, the State of Massachusetts has admitted that Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were denied a fair trial. They were executed despite world wide protests, only because they were Anarchists. The Boston jury that tried them decided that because they differed with them politically, they must by that token be criminal. Nor has the world advanced much since then. To be an "avowed" or "self-confessed" Anarchist is enough to excite prejudice and bigotry even in countries where the lawyers rule rather than the dictators.

Vanzetti prophesied that he and Sacco would be remembered when Judge Thayer was known only by disrepute; and the case has refused to die. Each investigation into the case has shown that Judge Thayer was imbued with the prejudices of 1927 America and the jury was influenced by him. The State Governor has now "removed the stigma and disgrace" attached to the two men; one may smile at his presumption. What stigma, what disgrace? The whole world knew long ago that there was none. Vanzetti's sister and Sacco's grandson received copies of the proclamation and were said to be pleased; officialdom has recognised what people all over the world spontaneously knew at the time –

that they were denied a fair trial because of their opinions.

It may seem strange today – after years of genocide, fascism, war – that the case so moved the world. After all the crime itself – a bank robbery – was nothing much in the way of the world at the time; and the fact that two obscure foreigners were blamed when they were palpably innocent was no more unusual either. But it was the blatancy of the situation that excited the world then. Here were two men who had swum against the stream at personal sacrifice; who had not succumbed to the blandishments of capitalist achievement in America, nor to the authoritarian parties – fascist or communist – that then seemed, one or the other, to hold the future in their hands. They stuck to their working class occupations when they could have gone ahead with a career; and they were avowed anarchists, believers in a free society. For that only they were to be dragged in as criminals and blamed for a crime they did not commit.

Anarchism then seemed a lost cause; but was this the only treatment its apostles were entitled to expect?

Sacco, "the good shoemaker", did not expect anything else of the State and capitalism. He accepted the fact that he was in the hands of his enemies, tied to the stake and to run the course. Vanzetti, at his own valuation "a poor fish-peddler", was more vocal; his protests, despite his elementary command of English, illumined the case. In a mad world these have become the stuff of literary collections and schoolboy essays, and the case itself one for innumerable university theses and scholarly books of many tomes.

We commented a few years ago, when it was agreed that the witches of Salem had not precisely had a just trial either – had never been in league with the Devil to corrupt New England – that it might not be long now before it was agreed that Sacco and Vanzetti too had their convictions overturned, though half-a-century too late to do them any good. Was it the film that finally tipped the scale?

It is 57 years since their arrest – and there were workers demonstrating in the streets of Paris, Barcelona, New York, Berlin – not to mention in the USA itself – who knew the two men were innocent of the crime for which they were accused, half a century before official Massachusetts. But they knew, too, that the "crime" for which they were not accused, but were found guilty, was that of being not, as the newspaper reports would have it now, "radicals," but of being Anarchists... of wanting a new free world.

A Hard Slow Grind

The BBC showed the stirring story of "The Ballad of Joe Hill" on television. We reviewed the film at the time so don't need to repeat our views for the

TV showing; but it was of the great fighter Joe Hill who fought to build the IWW as an authentic expression of working-class America. Bo Widerberg paid a moving tribute to Joe Hill.

It wasn't good enough (or maybe it caused pique) for the trots; *Newsline* commented, "This is not the portrait of a man steeled in struggle... the hard, slow grind of building a movement is left out. The unemployed riding the freight trains are cast more in the mould of romantic free-movers than the desperate searchers for food, work and shelter. It's a soft picture..." (July 9).



Joe Hill

In an adjoining column we find announcements for "the hard, slow grind of building a movement": "Force the Lib Lab coalition to resign!" – with a speaker from the teachers' union ("in a personal capacity"); "Build the revolutionary leadership in the trade unions". Joe Hill went out in the lumber camps and fought the terror of the bosses, the practical, hard-headed trots speak in halls to students for a "revolutionary leadership" of the reformist unions.

How Joe Hill would have laughed about the *Newsline* review – he might even have made a song about it. (Maybe "A hard, slow grind," to the tune of "A Hard Day's Night?")

The accusation of "romanticism" is often flung at us, too from "hard-headed" would-be libertarians. Why should it be a political swearword? Is there supposed to be something wrong with continuing to believe in one's ideals and sticking to one's principles?

To Charlotte Baggins and Chris Broad: another daughter to swell the anarchist horde.



JAKE PRESCOTT

Jake Prescott was moved to Wandsworth Prison in early August. As the van prepared to drive away from Albany with its police escorts, the prison Governor came up to him and shouted "You're on Rule 43, you know," and slammed the door.

When he arrived at Wandsworth Jake was placed immediately on Rule 43 (segregation) without any explanation being given. Even the Wandsworth Governor admitted that he didn't know why, other than it was on Home Office orders.

So Jake, still suffering from hepatitis (and not receiving treatment) which he contracted while at Albany, is in the cockroach-ridden cells of the Wandsworth segregation block, denied books and visitors.

All the prisoners involved in the Hull prison riot last summer including Jake have suffered savage beatings, loss of remission, and continual shunting from prison to prison — much of it spent in solitary confinement, as Jake is now.

Many of them, including Jake, have been deeply concerned about the likelihood of their being "found hung" in their cells, as a result of what they read in their personal files, liberated during the Hull occupation... an assumption not dispelled by recent revelations about the numbers of National Front members amongst the Prison Service. Yet prisoners are still prepared to show their fighting spirit.

Jake's determination to resist in particular is a good example; as was the magnificent collection raised by prisoners in Gartree towards the Murray Defence Fund. Now we have received another example of such solidarity. Noel and Marie Murray have sent us £5 towards aiding other prisoners! In view of the concern we know Jake to have felt about the Murrays whilst under threat of death, and bearing in mind his ill-health and ill-treatment, we shall be forwarding this money to him as a reciprocal gesture of the solidarity he has always shown for comrades under attack. We know Noel



and Marie will be heartened to hear that it has gone to Jake, and we can only marvel at their selflessness and solidarity when they themselves are locked away for a long stretch.

We ask all our readers to remember those comrades still fighting behind prison bars and to show *their* solidarity by carrying on the struggle outside with as much determination.

Noel, Marie and Jake... Salud!

Press Ganged

George Melly, the jazz singer, who was certainly once an anarchist, says that "politically he hasn't changed much." Not much! I dutifully vote Labour but I'd still call myself an anarchist though the phrase now seems to be associated either with the Sex Pistols or with German girls blowing up banks. I never thought of it like that." (*Sunday Times* 28.8.77). We never quite thought of it as voting Labour.

Writing on the fifteenth anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti Richard Boston (*Guardian* 27.8.77) says: "one must set the context of 'anarchism in America.' Most anarchists (as opposed to nihilists) have been, and are, believers in peaceful, creative, co-operative, non-violent means: this is the anarchism of Thoreau, Tolstoy, Gandhi and Kropotkin."

Which is the odd man out? Kropotkin (the only one of the three to call himself an anarchist) and hardly a creeping Jesus pacifist despite some of his nowadays worshippers!

Or perhaps Gandhi — an authoritarian if ever there was one!

It makes one puke to find journalist incapable of understanding anarchism to the point where day after day — in the *Guardian* too — they equate it with any sort of violent opposition to the State, irrespective of its motivation — and when the occasional fair-minded journalist comes along, he rushes into the opposite absurdity and equates it with Gandhian non-resistance.

A little while ago German school children were asked what they knew about Hitler. One thought he had beaten Bismarck in an election: English pressmen had a field day laughing at the ignorant kids. Bismarck though wasn't a bad hit (it was Hindenburg the boy, who wasn't born then, was thinking of). But the unqualified journalists don't know Gandhi from an anarchist while others think its the I.R.A!

For the ignorance of George Melly — whose main interest has always been jazz and whose political theory has got syncopated — one has to lay a heavy blame on the continuous liberal tradition of the pseudo-anarchists, perpetuated by the take-over of Freedom Press and accentuated by Peace News. Immeasurable harm has been done to anarchism by the caricature of anarchism they have presented in recent years of the anarchist movement, both by the deliberate distortion of their militant liberalism as "non-violent anarchism," and their consequent denunciation of real anarchism as ipso facto "violent," or as Richard Boston quaintly confuses it, "nihilism."

While we're on the subject of "violence" incidentally....

"There must be quite a few people around — gentle, law-abiding, non-violent — who would without much hesitation join any conspiracy for the removal of the Ugandan monster, Idi Amin," begins a book review in the *London Evening*

News (28th August). But wouldn't they then be wicked anarchists of the sort the *News* denounces so severely? Or is the exception for Amin — maybe because he's a black-skinned dictator, as distinct from such gentle, law-abiding, non-violent white dictators such as Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, Franco....?



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHILE

Freedom for Raul Cornejo!

Raul Guillermo Cornejo, aged 30, was a student of psychology at the Universidad de Chile. He is one of 2000-3000 Chileans which the DINA (Direccion de Inteligencia Nacional) displaced.

Raul Cornejo was a member of the MIR (Movement of the revolutionary left) and as a result was persecuted by DINA before he was imprisoned. DINA imprisoned his parents and his wife Viviana Altamirano de Cornejo in concentration camps. They were tortured cruelly in an attempt to find where Raul was hiding. They imprisoned and tortured the parents of his wife Viviana, their three sisters, the friends of their sisters, a friend of Raul and other people, solely to force these people to give the whereabouts of Raul. Viviana was tortured so brutally that she is still lame today. She now lives in Sweden.

On 15.6.76 Raul Cornejo tried with 20 other persons to seek asylum in the Bulgarian Embassy in Santiago de Chile. Until today it still isn't clear how a group

of the DINA, under the leadership of Miguel Krassnoff Marchenko, could intrude into the embassy. All 29 were imprisoned and brought to the concentration camp "Tres Alamos." Members of the OAS conference, which was in Chile at this time, demanded freedom for the 29, and they were all released on 16th June 1976 in Santiago at O'Higgins Park. Raul boarded a bus to go home. There he met his brother Patricio. He told him that he was tortured in Tres Alamos when suddenly he noticed that the bus was being followed by some cars belonging to the DINA. He and a friend who has also been released decided to leave the bus. This they did at the corner of San Diego and Avda. Matta. Raul went in the direction of Alameda where his brother saw the DINA cars stop near Raul and four soldiers force him into one of the cars. Since that day Raul has disappeared. The Chilean junta denies imprisoning Raul, though he was seen in the "Villa Grimaldi" a centre of torture in Chile.

(source: Industrial Defence Bulletin)

ITALY

Rome - Two members of the "Nucleus of the Armed Proletariat" (NAP) were shot down by Italian Carabinieri in July after being spotted talking to friends on the steps of Rome's San Pietro in Vincoli. Antonio Lo Muscio (26) and Maria Pia Vianale (23) had been on the police wanted list as leaders of the NAP. Seeing two Carabinieri get out of their car and walk towards them, Lo Muscio tried to run away down an alley. Sgt. Fortunato Massitti went after him and pumped eight bullets into his head and chest, whilst his partner Pietro Pucciarmati knocked comrade Vianale and her pregnant friend Franca Salarno - who had jumped

prison with Vianale last January - to the ground, breaking Vianale's nose. A fourth unidentified comrade managed to escape.

For the cops, Massitti and Pucciarmati, the action meant immediate promotion and a ceremonious "public tribute to their bravery!" But so brave were these two defenders of order that Italians were only allowed a glimpse of the men's backs when the ceremony was televised. And Italian newspapers refrained from publishing photos of the heroes for fear of retaliations. The "Red Brigades" have since announced that Massitti will not enjoy his promotion for much longer. "We have a good memory," they declared, "and no one will go unpunished."



Antonio Lo Muscio

POLAND

Following the mysterious death of 23 year old student Stanislaw Pyjas in Krakow and claims that he was murdered by the Polish Police, the state has stepped up the level of harassment against the members of the Workers Defence Committee.

Although they were forced only a few weeks ago to grant an amnesty to imprisoned opponents, the Polish authorities arrested seven members of the WDC who were intending to travel to the funeral of Stanislaw Pyjas. Many of the people who should have been released under the terms of the amnesty, who were imprisoned for long sentences for taking part in the strikes and riots of June 1976, remain in jail.

Samizdat literature continues to circulate on an increasing scale, and there are reports of posters appearing in some towns condemning the links between the Polish and Russian governments. One recent publication describes how a number of factories have been hit by work stoppages, and in those instances in which the workers have been forced back to work without settlement of their demands, productivity has fallen dramatically.

Letters protesting at the continued harassment of the Defence Committee, and demanding a complete amnesty for all the imprisoned strikers should be sent to the Polish Ambassador, Polish Embassy, Portland Place, London W.1.

Messages of support to the Defence Committee can be sent to Jacek Kuron, Warszawa, Mickiewicza 27.m.64. Poland. (Although Kuron is one of the people currently detained in prison).

SWEDEN

Twelve of the thirty people arrested in Stockholm during April (see Black Flag IV/15) were indicted on 24 July. The counts include preparations for kidnapping, robberies and bombings, which carry penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment. Their trial is expected to begin at the end of August. The public prosecutor has released more than 4,000 pages of "documentary evidence" alleging that Norbert Kroeher (extradicted to West Germany as a suspected member of the 2nd June Movement) and the 12 accused had planned to kidnap the former Swedish Foreign Minister, Anna-Greta Leijon, in order to extract a ransom of 15m Kronor (£2m) from the Swedish government. Leijon was responsible for the deportation of five members of the "Holger Meins Commando" to West Germany, one of whom Siegfried Hausner, died as a result of being moved whilst badly wounded. She was, the

prosecutor alleges, to have been crammed into a specially made box and taken to a cellar rented by the accused. Some of the Swedish suspects are stated to have "admitted" taking part in several bank robberies (netting 143,000 Kronor) to fund the "extensive preparations and equipment" for the kidnapping. Altogether 15 people are still being held by the Swedish authorities. Two of them will possibly also be indicted; the case against a third has been dismissed.

URGENT!

A 21-year old comrade, Ted Bergstrom, (prison address: 1023, Box 121 06, 10223 Stockholm, Sweden) is accused of placing a bomb outside the "Spain Tour" travel agency in Stockholm as a protest against the proposed execution of the 5 comrades in Spain in autumn 1975. He is linked to the action and has confessed and put out a political statement.

He is now in isolation arrest awaiting the trial. We need information about what kind of manifestations of solidarity were made in your home country or anything else that you know about. It is very important to show that his action was not a single (isolated) phenomenon.

It's not too much to say that the time is short and we are looking forward to a rapid response of solidarity.

Revolutionary Libertarian Greetings,
Svarta Korset, c/o Brand, Box 15030,
10465 Stockholm, Sweden.

USA

Robert L. Lynn has two children, a boy aged 6 and a 2-year old girl, and is serving a prison sentence of between 53 and 60 years.

In 1974 a police officer was shot by a man with a sawn-off shotgun while investigating a car he believed was involved in a bank robbery earlier that day. During the same evening nine more cops arrested Robert Lynn while he was making a phone call. Ten months later he went on trial to face charges relating to the robbery and to the shooting of the policeman. His conviction was the result of identification evidence made by three people. A female employee of the bank who identified him by his "left eye only" (as the robbers were masked). A witness to the shooting who identified another person on the day following the shooting, and only picked Lynn out as being responsible six months later, in court. And lastly by a policeman, who swore that he never saw the face of the man he chased following the shooting, yet identified Robert as being that person.

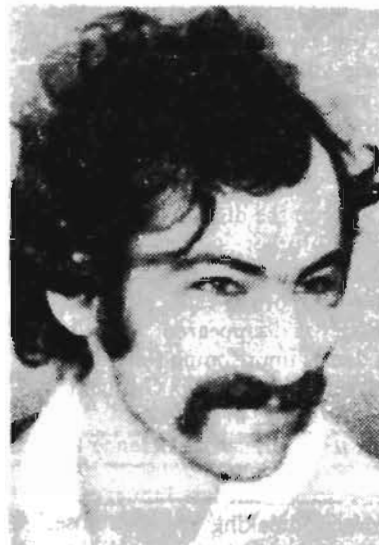
Robert can be contacted as follows:
Robert L. Lynn, 57320, Drawer N,
Trenton, N.J. 08625, U.S.A. and at
Robert L. Lynn Defence Fund, 205,
Williams Street, Railway, N.J. 07065,
U.S.A.

(source: Hapotec)

JOE REMIRO FRAMED UP IN ESCAPE ATTEMPT CHARGES FROM FOLSOM PRISON.

The State of California has concocted another frame-up charge against imprisoned ex-SLA member Joseph Remiro. Already serving two life terms for murder and jail break, Joe is accused this time of plotting an escape attempt from Folsom Prison with two other prisoners.

The alleged plot came to light last June 4 (although no report was released on it until June 22) after a former associate of Remiro, Bobby Davis, handed a 9-mm pistol and 27 rounds of ammunition over to the prison authorities and implicated Remiro in the alleged escape attempt.



Joe Remiro

Davis is serving a life term for killing four California Highway Patrol officers, and Remiro, with Russel Little, who is in another prison, is doing life for allegedly assassinating Oakland, California, School Superintendent Marcus Foster in 1973 and for an attempted escape from the Alameda County Jail in which two deputies were wounded.

In a letter to the Fifth Estate, dated June 29, Remiro denied being involved in any escape plot and said he had just been released into the general prison population after three years of being locked-down in solitary confinement and nine months of being a "model prisoner."

A search of the prison after Davis surrendered the gun and ammunition turned up 19 prison-made knives, including in his cell what Remiro called "a curious metal object that these people insist on calling a knife." Remiro has continually had his life threatened by prison guards and members of the white-racist inmate grouping, the Aryan Brotherhood. Papers in California have reported the incident with typical inaccuracy, claiming the "weapons were to be used in warfare within the Aryan Brotherhood, a white racist prison organisation," implying that Joe is a member of that organisation.

Remiro reports that Davis told prison officials that the plan involved the two of them and another inmate killing members of the Aryan Brotherhood, six guards and then escaping. Remiro told the Fifth Estate, "Of course, these people went crazy. Shotgun escort and a naked walk to the 'hole'."

Folsom Prison officials say they are "baffled" as to how the gun got into the prison, the first one ever discovered in the maximum security penitentiary. Guns in the past have been planted on political prisoners, such as George Jackson who was murdered by prison guards, to set them up for execution or to bring additional charges down on them.

Remiro says he thinks the charges against him are weak and probably will



Bobby Davis

not reach a civilian court. The incident will be handled as an infraction of prison rules and "we'll be found guilty by a jury of our accusers and keepers." Remiro plans to challenge this. "Don't think that any of us have resigned ourselves to this — we have plans to push this into court or at least raise hell trying."

Joe and Russ Little are victims of the official hysteria over the SLA and are innocent of the murder charges they are sentenced to life for. They deserve our support and assistance.

Protests against Remiro's treatment should be lodged with Assistant Deputy Corrections Director, George Warner, Folsom Prison, Represa (that's right), California 95671, U.S.A.

USA — three more jailed

Dwight Armstrong was sentenced to seven years in Milwaukee for his part in the 1970 anti-Vietnam War protest bombing of a military computer centre in Madison. His elder brother Karleton was sentenced to 23 years a while back, and David Fine received seven years.

Leonard Peltier, the 34-year old Chipewa-Sioux Indian activist who was deported from Canada last year, has been sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison, after being found guilty of killing two FBI agents during a 1975 gun battle at the Pine Ridge Reservation in

South Dakota. Two of the people accused with Leonard Peltier were acquitted last summer after the jury accepted pleas that the men acted in self-defence. An appeal has been lodged, but the work of the defence committee is being hampered by lack of money.

Among the evidence presented at the trial was an affidavit by Myrtle Poor Bear, who claimed to have been Leonard's girl friend, and a witness to the shootings. She was never called as a witness at the trial, despite the defence attempts, and has subsequently admitted that she has never met Peltier, but that the affidavit was signed by her following FBI threats.

Frank Blackhorse, who was arrested in Canada at the same time as Leonard Peltier, in 1975, was supposed to have been deported to the USA to face charges in connection with the Wounded Knee occupations; however, he remains in prison following a 14 day sentence for the possession of a marijuana joint (later reversed on appeal) and a 20 month sentence for attempting to escape. The Canadian authorities are attempting to use these criminal charges to deport him when his sentence finishes in October, as they have been unable to prove that his entry into the country was irregular.

Defence Committees: Armstrong Defence Committee, Box 962, Madison, Wisc. 53701, USA.

Blackhorse — P.O. Box 264, Sub 11, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta., or you can write to Frank direct at Box 10, Fort Saskatchewan, Alta. Canada. Leonard Peltier contact: Native American Solidarity Committee, P.O. Box 3426, St. Paul, Mn. 55165, USA.

AUSTRALIA

In 1959 20-year old Sandra Wilson shot dead a stranger. She was acquitted of murder on grounds of insanity and confined to a psychiatric hospital at the Governor's pleasure. In 1971 a panel of psychiatrists determined that she was sane and she was transferred from hospital to jail.

Sandra has now been confined for over 17 years (longer than any other woman in Australia), although the average jail sentence served by persons sentenced to life after conviction of murder in New South Wales is 13 years. She has applied for release every year since 1971.

More than 21 women have formed a support group and are campaigning for Sandra's release, and have arranged for accommodation for her, and have got her a job, and will try to help her overcome the problems associated with institutionalisation for long periods. The only problem is that the authorities won't release Sandra. They believe that because she is a lesbian she will have problems adjusting to the hostility of the wider world. The support group dispute this claiming that Sandra is no longer likely to react violently to rejection and that attitudes have changed since her conviction.

Pressure may help Sandra obtain her release. Write letters of protest to: Mr. R. Mulock, Minister for Services, Parliament Buildings, Sydney, New South Wales. (source: Hapotec)

Bill O'Meally (see last issue) has a new address: A Division, H.M. Prison, Pentridge, Coburg, Victoria, Australia 3058.

FRANCE

During April, the Angers bookshop of the Groupe Autonome Communiste Libertaire was the victim of a deliberate arson attempt, and the entire interior of the shop was destroyed. Five days later, a second libertarian bookshop, "La Taupe" in Le Mans, escape damage when an incendiary failed to ignite. Three people were asleep on the premises at the time.

[source: La Lanterne Noire]

SPAIN

Congratulations to comrade Pons Llobet (ex-MIL) who was released from prison on 16th July.

Angel Imprisoned.

Angel Moreno Patino, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment for forging cheques to raise funds for the G.A.C. (M.I.L.) has had his sentence reduced to 16 months.

B.I.C.I.C.L.E.T.A. is the name of the Boletín Informativo del Colectivo Internacionalista de Comunicaciones Libertaria y Ecologicas de Trabajadores Anarcosindicalistas. Subscriptions and donations to: B.I.C.I.C.L.E.T.A., Jose Elizalde, cuenta postal no. 1379763, Caja Postal de Ahorros, Madrid, Spain.

WEST GERMANY

Dusseldorf: After a trial lasting 14 months, Judge Herman Muller sentenced the four survivors of the Holgar Meins Commando — Lutz Tauber (33), Hanna Krabbe (31), Bernard Roessner (30), and Karl-Heinz Dellwo (25) to each serve double life terms for participating in the attack against the West German embassy in Stockholm on 24th April 1975. The four were found guilty of killing two diplomats, Lt. Col. Andreas Baron von Mirbach, the military attache, and Dr. Heinz Hillegart, economic counsellor, of taking 13 hostages and "attempting to place the West German authorities under duress". One member of the six-person commando, Ulrich Wessel, died during the Stockholm action, and another, Hausner, died when he was deported whilst still badly wounded. As Judge Muller began reading the Judgments, comrades and sympathisers in the court gave clenched fist salutes and shouted "down with extermination jails" and "murderers of Hausner." Muller thereupon ordered uniformed and plain-clothes cops to throw them out and twenty demonstrators were carried out

of the courtroom under a barrage of punches and kicks. Stuttgart... On 13 June it was announced that the first attempt was made to force feed Varena Becker, arrested in May with Guenther Sonneberg (see Black Flag IV/15), who is on hunger strike with Sabine Schmitz for the right to associate with other prisoners. This right was nominally granted some time ago by the Stammheim prison authorities after a long hunger strike by many prisoners, but this promise has not been kept. They have been refusing food since 2 June. Following the announcement, three attempts were made to force feed her, but she resisted and in a meeting with Varena's lawyer the doctors said force would not be used again. This merely meant that the next time she would be drugged before force feeding.

The lawyers of the two women have been charged by the state prosecutors office, with attempted murder and grievous bodily harm, because they refused to persuade the two to break off their hunger strike! Some curious legal reasoning has concluded that they are responsible for the dangerous conditions of their clients. Armin Newerla, one of the lawyers, said after a press conference that the perpetrators were being produced to precede the deed.



Roland Otto

Karl-Heinz Roth and Roland Otto have been acquitted by a Cologne court of killing a policeman during a gun-fight in May 1975. Roland Otto remains in prison to complete a sentence for forgery, added to which he received an extra 10 months for illegally possessing a weapon. Karl-Heinz Roth was released but fined more than £3,000 for illegally possessing the gun that the police used to shoot him with.

Peter-Paul Zahl has been transferred back to the prison at Werl. In the last issue of Black Flag we reported his sudden transfer to the remand prison at Bochum following a prisoners' hunger-strike. His belongings have now been returned to him and the authorities are publishing this as a magnanimous gesture. Peter-Paul's new address is:— P.P. Zahl, Postfach 301, 476 Werl, Germany.

Irish Prisoners

Thoughts on the Jubilee

We haven't said anything about the Silver Jubilee of Mrs. Elizabeth Glucksburg, by the Grace of God and the luck of the draw our gracious sovereign. All the stuff about the Jubilee is about as corny as the Jubilee itself; though perhaps it was necessary in view of the noisy royalism about, kept up much the same way as baptism, Jesus and Father Christmas, "for the sake of the kids" and so as not to spoil their fun.

But when it comes to personalities, you must grant her one thing and that is she has more guts than any other of the titular and actual heads of the Nation States. Compare the attitude of the Queen with the rulers of France who have soiled underpants every time they venture into the public gaze, and need to carry out mass kidnaps whenever a visiting celebrity comes to Paris. Deportations of citizens formerly to Corsica, now to Brittany, are carried out on routine visits of State heads in Paris; but in London the Queen rides through in an open carriage sometimes with an occasional trained ape, at the behest of Ministers who like their own private detective for the importance it confers on them and insist on the Queen having one. But where is the equivalent of the raids normally carried out by the French police on this special occasion?

And courage pays off, for the lack of repression means that counter-attacks are not provoked. We say nothing about the dictators — they need their bodyguards — but could not at least the lily-livered French Presidents and Premiers take a hint?

Can it be that France must await a Madame la Presidente before it gets one with balls?

But lest this unexpected compliment be passed on to Her Britannic Majesty, we must point out that there is, on the other hand, not one country with a similar event taking up so much time, publicity and expense, that would not have celebrated at least with a partial amnesty for prisoners, certainly for political prisoners. However little, they would all give something in the way of amnesty; only in England, only Her Britannic, or whoever does the job for her, is mean enough to give nothing.

"I have been asked by some old comrades why I, as an anarchist support the Provos," writes "Sidney Street" — no relation — in *Anarchy* 22 and goes on to give the most incredibly naive interpretation.

Black Flag's attitude is, summed up as "it's only a religious nationalist war." Religion and nationalism do not apparently enter into it. What does? He goes on to state the degree of repression, which he seems to think is unrelated to nationalism or religion, and concludes:

"If any of you want something practical to do, what about the Irish prisoners in

The Black Cross does not only support Spanish prisoners. It so happens that's where most anarchist struggle and prisoners have been. But also, the amount of Spanish prisoners has run into thousands — at times it was in the tens and even hundreds of thousands. They received no support from anywhere in the world, nor from national assistance, nor did the State support their families. (They even had to buy their own food in jail). The Black Cross raised in its time a total of maybe a couple of thousand pounds or so — we cannot compute because we asked people to send direct.

The Black Cross has always asked for support for class war prisoners. Due to our paucity of support, confined to a few anarchists, we have had to give some priorities to our own comrades who needed it. A lot didn't need it and some prisoners contributed to funds rather than received. Most of our prisoners in England and Ireland have contributed to Spanish and German prisoners aid, for instance.

The way you might take it from him, you would think that there were thousands of anarchists all over England contributing vast sums to Spanish anarchists and forgetting the huge number of Irish prisoners "on their own doorstep!" We have always attacked the idea of "struggle everywhere but here." The Provos incidentally object to any struggle *there* not *theirs* — shooting in the kneecap would be the punishment for "offences" not connected with the national struggle. They believe in Free *Ireland* not in Free Irish!

We have always opposed the idea of classification as political prisoners, though understanding why in the Irish dimension this is clung to, where in the nationalist context people want to think of themselves as prisoners of war rather than class war prisoners. In every country — Ireland too as a matter of fact — the classification as political prisoner has been to the detriment of the person concerned. They have been classed as political to deny them human rights. Compare the torture over years of Ulrike Meinhof, as against the relatively progressive treatment of criminals who are only in it for the loot. More so, in the "Communist" countries, where a political classification is put on to suggest "highly dangerous." In this country, many are on top security who would never be so, but for the fact that they were working for their principles and not for their bank deposits.

England? Many of you will no doubt have helped or applauded the work being done for Spanish prisoners by Black Cross and allied groups, but what about the prisoners on your own doorsteps?"

To this remark we take exception and a few words for our naive friend would not be amiss.

He begrudges anything done for *anarchists* which is typical of the type of "anarchist" taking a "non sectarian", "practical" and "critical support" line. The Black Cross does not receive all *that* support.

In my district (not a particularly Irish district) the local Catholic church has raised £3,000 for Irish prisoners, (not realising it was not a religious struggle). This is far exceeded by other churches, clubs, groups, parties in the entire English speaking world, and in the whole amounts to millions of pounds rather than thousands. The number of prisoners involved, is — what? A list circulated by the Provisionals gives six hundred names. Where does the money go?

The Provos have not only failed to support other prisoners, and most of them were against the support of the Murray campaign (though some came on to the campaign later on when it was growing), but they have failed to rally to the support of Irish prisoners who were not political. Spanish Anarchist prisoners always shared in a commune with all who needed.

Now we learn how the Irish Republican Socialist-Party is taking advantage of the desire for political prisoner status, reinforced by the fact that in Northern Ireland, this does cover some privileges and holds out the hope, whether illusory or not, of amnesty.

Considerable dissension in I.R.S.P. compound in Long Kesh led to sixteen prisoners leaving the I.R.S.P., and thereby losing their right to stay in the compound. They went into the cell block as agreed (in the unique circumstances of almost shared power between governor and political commissars); when they tried to go back, there being no other compound, as they would have lost their political prisoner status, the I.R.S.P., refused to admit them though the Governor was in agreement.

The sixteen therefore stayed in H block without political status. On June 27th the sixteen went into blankets, refused prison clothes, and started a struggle to maintain their status.

But since then fourteen signed the status away. The two remaining are carrying on the struggle though it means they will have to serve their whole sentence of 12 years each entailing remaining in cells 21 hours a day, having no visits, only two letters a month, no books (but the Bible).

Both the two prisoners are denounced as anarchists by the I.R.S.P. though they do not accept that definition.

PONTO EXECUTION DOCUMENT

We have just received the following communique on the execution of the West German Banker, Ponto, during an attempted kidnapping:

"In the present situation in which both the Federal Attorney's Office and the State Security Services have begun their massacre of prisoners there is no real justification for long declarations.

When the shots hit Ponto in Oberursel it became very clear to us that these people, who start wars in 3rd World Countries and wipe out entire races, are dumbfounded when violence faces them in their own homes.

The smear put about by the State Security Services of "big money" is as untrue as everything else that was said about the attack.

Naturally, the thing to do always is pit the new against the old, and here it means: the struggle — for which there is no prison — against the universe of money in which everything is prison."

Ponto was:

1. **Speaker for the Board of Directors of the Dresden Bank AC Frankfurt** (2nd biggest bank in W. Germany).
2. **Chairman of the Supervisory Board:** Bank für Handel und Industrie AG, Berlin, Deutsche Länderbank AG, Frankfurt, AEG-Telefunken, Berlin.
3. **Chairman of the Board of Directors:** Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Banque S.A., Luxembourg.
4. **Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Board:** Deutsch-Südamerikanische Bank AG, Hamburg, Hapag-Lloyd AG, Hamburg/Bremen, Friedr. Krupp GmbH, Essen, Münchner Rückversicherungsgesellschaft, München.
5. **Member of the Supervisory Board:** Allianz Versicherungs AG, München, Daimler-Benz AG, Stuttgart, Degussa, Frankfurt, Metallgesellschaft AG, Frankfurt, Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk AG, Essen, August Thyssen-Hütte AG, Duisburg, Banque de la Société Financière Européenne, Paris.
6. **Member of the Board of Directors:** Banque Bruxelles Lambert, Brussels, Knorr Nahrungsmittel AG, Thayngen, ABECOR, Associated Banks of Europe Corp. S.A., Brussels, Rothmans International Ltd., London, SFE, Société Financière Européenne, Luxembourg.
7. **Member of the Advisory Board:** ROM, Wärme- und Klimatechnik GmbH, Hamburg, Landeszentralbank in Hessen, Frankfurt.
8. **Member of the Executive Board:** Bundesverband Deutscher Banken e.V., Köln, Hertie Stiftung, Frankfurt.
9. **Chairman:** Committee for Credit Policy of the Association of German Banks, Köln.
10. **Member of the Presidency:** German Group of the International Trades Council, Köln, German Society for Foreign Policy e.V., Bonn.

11. Senator:

Max-Planck Gesellschaft

The Dresdner Bank under Ponto became the most aggressive and expansionist bank in W. Germany. According to Newsweek he was one of the 5 who "meant" something in W. Germany. He sold Daimler Benz Shares to Kuwait (14%), 25% of Krupp shares to Iran, he holds talks with Sadat. He is "advisor" to Vorster, and ships for racist South Africa are built in his shipyards. The Society for Foreign Policy (10) is the German equivalent of the American (by situation) Council on Foreign Relations, whose imperialist policies are open fact. Then there is also his position in the Credit Policy Association (11) which recently gave Italy its credit, as long as NATO bases were secured. Ponto was one of the few men whom Schmidt turned to for advice. Ponto was *not* a mere merchant banker, but an imperialist aggressive policy maker.

GREECE — Solidarity Now!

May Day demonstrations this year witnessed clashes with the State authorities in many parts of the world.

In Athens, some 800 anarchists marched as part of the unofficial May Day demonstration. At one point the police had blocked access to a square the demonstrators wanted to go towards. Realising that there was a police blockade, the anarchist section refused to move back after the Marxist-Leninists withdrew. At this point, and without any announcements and without provocation, the police charged into the demonstration and the watching crowds, with their sticks drawn injuring quite a few people and making arrests. The anarchists fell back and then began to retaliate as best they could. Over 30 people were arrested and some 23 stood trial on a variety of charges. A Canadian anarchist witnessed all these events.

The Greek police as well as the Army are still very much in the hands of the kind of people who collaborated with the dictatorship. Also in the last few months since the May Day events, the Greek press, left, right and centre, have whipped up an anti-anarchist hysteria.

Long articles have appeared on the anarchists, anarchism and all of these stories have distorted the facts.

As a matter of urgency and international solidarity the Greek anarchists ask that letters be written to the Greek press from abroad to protest about their treatment and to indicate that they are not isolated. Such a letter was composed and circulated by the Montreal anarchists and a letter was sent and published in the Greek press bearing the signatures of Murray Bookchin, Sam Dolgoff, Claude Lafon, Bob Mayo, Stan Nemiroff, Dimitri Roussopoulos, George Woodcock, Karl Hess, Richard Barnett, Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, George Saltzman, Will Watson, Bill Graham, Graeme Nicholson, Paul Hollow, Calvin Normore and Paul Avrich. This letter was published in Athens on 6th June.

On 21 May however, at 4.30 am the police raided the home of C. Konstantinidis, the coordinator of "Diethnis Bibliothiki" (the leading Greek anarchist publisher) in Athens. They arrested and savagely beat up S. Papadopoulos, M. Anastasiadis, N. Papaionnou, as well as their guests Roelf Jacob from Holland and Jean-Marie Sogut and Laurence Hubert from France.

Konstantinidis who was not there at the time the police broke in and smashed up the apartment was arrested later. In prison the beatings continued and several comrades had to be hospitalised.

A trial was held of those arrested. The court found them innocent of the police charges, but the prosecutor intends to demand a re-trial. At this point of writing we do not know the date of the re-trial.

The photograph shows comrades C. Konstantinidis and S. Papadopoulos coming out of court. We can see some of the effects of the beatings. S. Papadopoulos is the coordinator of the "Marvo Rodo" bookshop in Athens, the first anarchist bookshop in the city.

Send solidarity messages to:—
C. Konstantinidis and S. Papadopoulos,
Diethnis Bibliothiki, Delfon 2, Athens,
Greece.



Review

ZERO

Zero is a new anarchist monthly being produced by a collective composed partly of people who produced the now defunct *Wildcat*, some members of *Solidarity*, and some people who originally worked on *Freedom* (before the latest split occurred — *Freedom* now has more splits than IMG or the WRP, which must mean something). Such a mixture of people seem unlikely to produce a paper that was anything other than the sum of their respective parts, but the first issue of *Zero* is a workman-like job, well printed (on a print run of 3,500) and if things go well it looks poised to take over *Freedom*'s role as the anarchist paper.

Although several ex-*Wildcat* people have helped to publish it, and remarks in the short editorial echo aims set out in the first issue of *Wildcat*, the similarity (apart from the polished layout) ends there. *Wildcat* was libertarian (anarchism with the revolutionary element removed), *Zero* is distinctly and militantly anarchist.

Issue number one contains an article on the (already legendary) CNT Conference held at San Sebastian de los Reyes;

several news items on repression in many countries (including the UK); and an article on "anarchism/feminism" described as a "hesitant collective statement" of the group's own ideas — "We don't just want the overthrow of capital but full sexual-social revolution, the simultaneous overthrow of capital, patriarchy and state. No more revolution by thirds!" An interview with two members of the CNT; a long biographical sketch of Marie Louise Berneri, by Philip Sansom and partly illustrated by Cliff Harper; book reviews and a fairly comprehensive "Agitprop" page.

The second issue maintains the high standard of the first, and the content is a little less 'heavy'. Barry Smerin has translated a very interesting article on the autonomous groups and the metropolitan indians in Italy, and Geoff Ingarfield exhumes *OZ* and examines its impact, successes and failures. There are also three book reviews, and some news items. Cliff Harper manages to capture the spirit of the anti-abortion lobby in one of his more humorous illustrations.

Surprisingly, the first article in issue 2 is written by the Rape Group rather than by members of the *Zero* collective. Headlined "Against Rape" it takes the astonishing position (for an anarchist paper) of assuming that tough jail sentences deter rapists. Much of this article is a thoughtful analysis of the

reality of rape, but *Zero* fell down badly by not seizing the chance to present a clear and well-argued article from a distinctly anarchist perspective.

If *Zero* is going to succeed on its own terms and "help give expression to the strong resurgence of libertarian ideas and practice in recent years" and "reach a larger audience than anarchist papers have reached in the past", it won't do so on the strength of its smart layout, or the painstaking care and effort that goes into each issue — it won't even be the result of a secure financial base. It will only succeed if it becomes a useful tool in the growing social struggle. Any paper which restricts its role to analysing society and describing contemporary events and issues from an anarchist perspective will recreate the division between spectator and spectacle that characterises the existing media. Unless a paper can become a vehicle for communication between groups of active people its achievements will be ephemeral rather than revolutionary.

Zero is at the brink, and has a good chance of making it to the other side if it can take the opportunities that are available.

Single copies are 20p (plus postage), and there is a subscription rate of £3 (UK subscribers), £4 airmail subs, from *Zero*, c/o Rising Free, 182, Upper Street, London, N.1.

Paul Wilson.

Out of Sight

On February 21 1973, two anarchists — described by Mr Justice Park as "very dangerous young men" were jailed at Winchester Crown court for alleged raids on the officers' club in Aldershot and the Portuguese consulate in Cardiff. It was said they belonged to a group called Freedom Fighters for All.

We had not heard of it, but that is not to say it did not exist. The evidence showed that this was a genuine and honest attempt to expose some of the world's ills. Against the massacre of hundreds in Mozambique by the Portuguese Army (since admitted) they placed a hoax bomb in the embassy and started a fire. "Very dangerous", Mr Park! They also called attention to the death by starvation of 50,000 people in Ethiopia, which the world has ignored. Even more dangerous. The explosion in Aldershot shattered windows and blew out frames — really dangerous, when one thinks of the nuclear threat posed every day by the Army!

The two fighters for freedom were Dafydd Ladd (23) and Michael Tristram (24). They went to jail for seven years and six years respectively.

The type of offences for which they were convicted are regularly committed, with more serious consequences, and with considerably greater threat, by fascist organisations (possessions of arms etc) which pay a small fine. Dafydd Ladd and Michael Tristram were sentenced to jail for six and seven years and placed under strict security. So strict that one does not know what has happened to them, and one has never known. People can "disappear" in totalitarian countries. But how about in this country?

We know from the Huddersfield case that Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett "vanished" from sight. Friends who phoned were told they had "gone away for a week." One who called was arrested and imprisoned. Yet no charges were ever brought. They could have disappeared without sight — and they were at liberty. What has happened to Michael Tristram? Questions to the Home Office have proved abortive. He has, so far as we have ever heard, vanished from sight.

We wanted to do something in regard to his case, but had no trace of him. Maybe his relatives know. We weren't in touch with him before so we don't

know. But Dafydd Ladd's wife got in touch with us. She said that Dafydd urgently wanted to contact us. He asked us to get permission from the Home Office to visit him.

No letters to him have been answered. He neither receives our mail nor have we received his. His wife could not understand why we did not contact him. Now we no longer hear from his wife. If this were in Amin's Uganda what a story it would make!

While Britain does not admit to having political prisoners, some are more political than others. No prisoner would be refused permission to see a visitor of his or her faith... only an anarchist prisoner. Interest by outside organisations in the welfare of prisoners would be welcomed... but not if they believe in the class struggle. It would be unthinkable that someone serving a sentence should be refused parole, and kept on special security, not because of anything they did or for which they were sentenced, but solely because the political climate of the times — because of a completely different set of circumstances arising since the sentences — does not allow them to be released.

Letters

June 27, 1977

Dear Comrades/People,

Today the paper got through enemy lines and we here in the Segregation Unit of the Washington State Penitentiary read the Hull riot story in rage. To those brothers who suffered, won and lost, still struggling, we send all we have, our love from this hole. What happened there almost word for word has occurred here in the last three months — this unit fought back and the whole prison went on strike. The strike lasted longer than any strike in the history of the American Penal System, and still continues here in this unit. We have no "Changes" but victory is assured and has in many ways begun to show itself — outside support has gathered and of over 80 men in here, many for years, over 30 have been released and more shall be. The Associate Warden was removed and today a new warden took over, many guards are being moved, and the future looks good — in coordination with the above and below ground we have shaken the state and rallied the people to seize control of their lives.

Where there is oppression there is resistance, if we stand together comrades, people, as one both in these dungeons and camps, and out there we can win. The struggle for liberation is long and hard, but we must be strong and believe. We must have patience and be calm, draw the line and stay on it to the end ignoring the tokens. Reform is unending and a game by the state, change is mandatory, make change, make revolution.

Many think bad of prisoners, others are ignorant of the reality we are all caught up in, but many care and know that we are people and human. Prisoners must be self-reliant and we must get the truth out that we are people and expose the state, the system, for it is the *problem* not us. The prison movement must be recognised, supported and protected, it must unite world wide with the people.

What happened at Hull is happening in every prison and camp in the capitalist world on all levels — it must stop. Those outside must help and support *all* progressive and political prisoners in this struggle, which is your struggle too. At *every* opportunity the community, the people must get back control over their lives, getting into the prisons is one of the best ways to stop crime, and tear down the walls of such evil, cruel places that haunt and hang over us all — prisons are tools of class war, tools of the fascists, tools of the greedy bourgeois. Are not prisoners your husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends and/or lovers — can you stand there and do nothing as a human being while they suffer and cry out — even when you may be next?

Prisoners must be helped to eliminate their own class — they must be self-reliant, they move their families and friends to support them, their families must become one and the Left, their friends etc., must help, support and struggle with them.

Where theory can be put to practise more than any other place best, is in the prison movement. The labour and prison movement are two of the most important movements in our struggle — for in them we *all* have common ground, and we can unite as one, in no other movements do we find this uniqueness.

In numbers there is the strength we must have to win . . .

Carl L. Harp

The Walla Walla Brothers.

P.S. 14 months now in this hole — but sacrifice feels good, I am well and kicking still the guts of this monster hard — to all who sent cards and letters my love and strength, thank you, they have given me the courage to continue.

Carl Harp 126516,
P.O. Box 520,
Walla Walla Wn.
99362, U.S.A.

June 25, 1977

Dear Comrades,

Just received your literature this evening. Thanks very much, they're much appreciated.

I was going to the parole board this August but at this time I know I have no chance of getting released. Myself and two friends were really getting ahead with the people in here and slowly making some headway on establishing their thoughts towards what was *really* going down here, why we were *really* in prison, who were the *true* criminals etc., — but last month my friend got into an argument with some of the inmates who tended to feel that the administration, if not correct, were at least unbeatable and best left alone. The argument grew into a fist fight and then the 'Keepers' used the opportunity to violently enforce their rule. Unfortunately for them it seems that quite a few of them got hurt. I was locked up and my friend was beaten and stomped in the hospital and then received 54 stitches and was put in the "box." Certain pet inmates, in order to gain favour from the Keepers made statements against my friend in favour of the pigs.

So the other day three of them were stabbed in the yard by someone other than myself and the man with me. The pigs immediately converged on the area and one of them who we have had repeated trouble with said to the others that I must have done it, and they tried to jump on us. We held them off and finally agreed to go to our cells if we were left alone.

As soon as they got us in our cells they got the "goon squad" and took us to the box. We're now being charged with inciting riot, assault, weapons etc.,

So comrades I know how they work and I know the methods they use. Getting down to cold hard facts, I've accepted that the road is a hard one with plenty of sacrifices on the way, but to me principles and beliefs must supercede all else. I would like my freedom, to be with my wife and children, to enjoy some semblance of normalcy, but if those things means that I might have to compromise my beliefs then I'll have to forfeit the comforts.

Thanks for listening to me ramble on but there isn't really an abundance of people I can relate to on the same plain who can readily relate to my thoughts and feelings from first hand experience. I salute your work and only hope I'll be able to maintain the mental and moral strength to carry on with it and never weaken. It's my pleasure to correspond with comrades and I'll be looking forward to hearing from them in the future.

True freedom to all
from,

L. J. Smith

(address: 75A2297, 135 State St.,
Auburn, N.Y. 13021, U.S.A.)

P.S. Thanks again for the literature you can be sure that I'll spread it around up here in the box.

Answers to Quiz

1. Presumably so, by marriage, as his wife Jenny (nee von Westphalen), like Victoria, traced her descent from the Royal House of Stuart.
2. Smith regaled his drinking cronies with Sir Roger Casement's homosexual experiences, gleaned from the diaries taken on his arrest on a charge of treason; Ennley Blackwell (of the Home Office legal department) realised they could be used to prejudice world opinion against Casement after his execution (which was bound otherwise to be sympathetic to Irish rebellion, since Carson, who prosecuted, had been guilty of the same offence of taking up arms against the State before the war; and the Czechs, who had just

- formed a Czech Legion to fight their overlords, Austria, were regarded as patriots).
3. Both were proposed names which had to be altered when it was realised they would be known by their initial letters.
4. An Act of Sir Reginald McKenna, Home Secretary, directed against women militants on hunger strikes, allowing for their release and subsequent re-arrest.
5. Liberal, Missouri (founded 1881 by George Walser). The Methodists of Denison later captured it by moving in; the character of the town was changed by 1920.
6. The political arm of the Southern Methodist Church.

GERMAN POLICE INVASION

In the Daily Mail of Sept 7 and the Birmingham Post Sept 3, a scare story reads of 'Midland Connection in German Kidnap.' We confess to being disappointed that they haven't, as usual, blamed the Black Cross.

Says the Mail, "One of the groups that has been named by the West German police is the Birmingham-based Red and Black Movement formed a year ago." Peter Le Mare, was interviewed, and said (according to the Mail) they had no connection with the "Baader-Meinhof gang." In the more extensive Birmingham Post report, he is supposed to have said, in the same interview there was no connection with the "Baader-Meinhof group." The Post, going into the matter fully, says that a police spokesman at Karlsruhe "could not disclose further details but said it was 'very hot stuff.'" Peter could not explain it. He couldn't think where the police had got the name of the Red and Black group (Post version) from.

The explanation is quite simple. Peter Le Mare and one or two others formed the Red and Black Group a year ago (later calling it the Libertarian Socialist Group). He probably did not know that

the name indeed was "very hot stuff." The Red and Black Movement existed

in Birmingham *forty years ago* and is still recorded in German police files.

According to the Karlsruhe police it was prepared to give a hide-out to "the Baader-Meinhof" gang — group — take your pick. But this is police/press cant for the German resistance of today.

The Red and Black Movement based in Birmingham in 1937 did indeed offer asylum to members of the German Resistance; amongst others, to those involved in one of the two German Anarchist attempts on the life of Hitler. Whether the German police chief brought this forward thinking the same group was still in existence, or mistook the date in the files, or wished to involve foreign groups in accordance with a Government directive to get foreign Governments interested, and dug up the name, we do not know. It was a lucky, or unlucky, shot that hit Peter Le Mare's group. Had the German police been in charge of the investigation, all in that group would by now be in jail; if indeed Peter Le Mare had not been shot while opening the door (as happened with British agent McLeod, shot by the German police as if he were a person with dangerous thoughts).

It may strike the public here as dangerous, perhaps, that British police

can invite German police over here to pursue their inquiries — using as a precedent the case they got away with, inviting French police to raid British homes in company with a British officer. Though there is no legal compulsion to talk to a German police officer, our readers with their customary politeness, may care to greet them with a classic quotation from Goethe to make them feel at home ... for instance Goetz von Berleichen's "Leck mich an Arse."* But be careful how you open the door to them.

**Lick my Arse* — which has the same classical justification in reply to intimidation as Cambronne's "Shit!" when asked to surrender at Waterloo.



West German police examining bullet holes at site of kidnaping of Hanns-Martin Schleyer; car in foreground carried slain bodyguards

